

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:	Paul Buchheit	Confirmation No.:	8809
Serial No.:	10/816,428	Art Unit:	2454
Filed:	March 31, 2004	Examiner:	Nguyen, Dustin
For:	Email System with Conversation-Centric User Interface	Attorney Docket No.:	60963-5007-US

DECLARATION OF BRIAN D. RAKOWSKI UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Brian D. Rakowski, declare that:

1. I am currently employed at Google Inc., located at 1600 Amphitheater Parkway Mountain View, California 94043. My current title is Product Management Director.
2. I was Associate Product Manager for the web email project that included the invention described and claimed in the above identified patent application.
3. This web email application was running internally and used for email communications by the time I joined Google in July of 2002.
4. I understand that the inventors of this invention have submitted declarations stating that this invention was conceived of on or before September 19, 2002 and was reduced to practice on or before June 22, 2003.
5. I understand that the Examiner has requested proof of reduction to practice on or before June 22, 2003.
6. The following comments and explanations relate to the web email application as it actually functioned (and thus as it was "reduced to practice") at least as early as April 21, 2003.
7. Attached hereto, as Exhibit A, is a copy of an email document dated April 21, 2003 addressed to me that includes a screen shot. This email was received from an internal user, a Google employee, who was using the web email application for email communications. This employee was reporting a bug not relevant to this declaration – "the red arrow isn't pointing to the message I'm

reading.” However, the attached screenshot also illustrates that at on April 21, 2003 or before; the web email application was functioning and working for its intended purpose with respect to the details discussed below.

- 8 . The screen shot includes both a list of conversations and a detailed view of one conversation entitled “New Caribou features.” This screen shot is from an operational implementation of a web mail application that implemented all aspects of the currently pending independent claims (82, 86, 93, 100, 102, 109, 111, and 118) as well as many of the currently pending dependent claims as explained below.
- 9 . The list of conversations in the screen shot has a plurality of rows, each row corresponds to a distinct conversation (i.e., each conversation that is listed is presented as a single item). In other words, this document is an example of “presenting at least a portion of the list of conversations” wherein “each conversation listed in the presented portion of the list [is] represented as a single item” and furthermore “the presented portion of the list including a plurality of items, each representing a distinct conversation.”
- 10 Each row in the screen shot includes: a sender list, a conversation topic, a date/time value, and an icon indicating the number of messages in the conversation (shown in parentheses). Three of the four conversations listed include a plurality of messages (shown in parentheses). In other words, this document is an example of a listing of conversations “at least one of which comprises a plurality of messages, wherein each item representing a conversation having a plurality of messages has an associated icon indicating the number of electronic messages in the conversation.”
- 11 In addition, the conversations are ordered by date/time value. In other words, this document is an example of a listing of conversations presented “in an order determined in accordance with first predefined criteria.” It is also an example of a listing of conversations “wherein the conversations are presented to the requestor in an order determined in accordance with a date/time value of a most recently received message of each respective conversation in the presented portion of the list.” Furthermore, it is an example of a listing of conversations “wherein the conversations are presented to the requestor in an order determined in accordance with, for each respective conversation in the presented portion of the list, a date/time value of a most recently received message that is relevant to the search query.”
- 12 .This information is based on my personal knowledge, as refreshed by the

email to me shown in Exhibit A. The web email application was search query based, rather than folder based. To be absolutely clear on this point, the web mail application does not use folders. All mail messages for an account, each with their own message identifier, are stored together, without any division of messages between folders. However, messages can have labels, such as "inbox," "unread," "starred," "trash" and the like. As such, in order to display all the emails in the "inbox" of a user's account, a search is performed for the label "inbox" (the actual query is "label:inbox") and the messages with the label "inbox" are selected for display. Furthermore, the web email application was conversation based. Searches for messages return lists of conversations. Conversations are also known as "threads." Each conversation in the web mail application has a respective conversation identifier. The web email application applied various criteria for determining which messages belong to the same conversation, such as determining that the email messages in the same conversation shared certain characteristics. When performing a search on a search query, such as "label:inbox" or "Lake Tahoe," the web email application located conversations having at least one message that match the search query term(s), and then returned a list of the located conversations. The list of conversations displayed in the screen shot of the Exhibit A is the list of conversations returned by a search query "label:box," which was run when the user clicked on the "inbox" tab. Thus, the document in Exhibit A was produced by "responding to receipt of a query from a requestor, the query having one or more query terms" by "selecting a list of conversations" from "a plurality of conversations" generated from "a plurality of messages directed to a user." Each message has "a unique message identifier" and each conversation has a unique "conversation identifier." Each conversation "comprises one or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics." Furthermore, "each conversation in the list include[s] at least one electronic message that matches the search request." Then the "list of conversations" is transmitted "over a network to the client for display" and "at least a portion of the list of conversations" is presented to the requestor.

13. This screen shot and my sworn statement above regarding the application's search based mechanisms proves that the invention claimed in the above-identified patent application was reduced to practice, i.e., it existed and worked for its intended purpose at least as early as April 21, 2003.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Date: 6/1/2016

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Rakowski".

Brian D. Rakowski

Exhibit A

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@google.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 21, 2003 at 2:06 PM
Subject: Re: New Caribou features
To: Brian Rakowski <brakowski@google.com>

I've attached a screen snapshot. Just to the left of "3. Brian Rakowski > ed: 1:54pm".

Also, there's an extraneous box to the right of "Label|Reply|Fwd" on the same line.

You can also see in the snapshot the bug I just filed a few minutes ago where the red arrow isn't pointing to the message I'm currently reading. I'm reading "New Caribou features" but it's pointing to "RE: \$500 credit limit...".

BTW, I've been using Caribou full-time for about two weeks now, and I'm digging it!

[REDACTED]

On Mon Apr 21 13:54:39 PDT 2003, Brian Rakowski <brakowski@google.com> wrote:
> I'm not sure what you mean... otri?
>
> On Mon Apr 21 13:47:59 PDT 2003, [REDACTED]@google.com> wrote:
> > What's the "otri" thing next to the sender?

Attachments:

caribou.gif

(15 KB)

Inbox (9)	Label	Sent	Drafts (2)	Compose	Addresses	Filters	Archive	Spam (128)	Trash (1)
Eric: Misha, Stephen (4)									
Brian, me (3)									
root									
Mhmm, me, Marc, Kim (7)									
Delete	Mark Spam	Print							

New Caribou features [Inbox]

1 new, 2 read

tri 1 Brian Rakowski: Hi loyal Caribou users! Here's a list of the things we've been working on an...
 notri 2 What's the "otri" thing next to the sender?

otri 3, Brian Rakowski > ed: 1:54pm (3 minutes ago) Label | Reply | Forward

I'm not sure what you mean... otri?